

### **Amendments to the Abstract**

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the following rewritten abstract:

#### **Abstract**

#### **Method and Apparatus for Fragile Watermarking**

A method of fragile watermarking is characterised by the step of generating at least a first ill-conditioned operator, said ill-conditioned operator being related to values extracted from an image or portion thereof A.

**FIG. 1**